

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 16067 012004Z

56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 /073 W

----- 003969

R 010921Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 296

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16067

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINR, IT

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH THE MINISTER OF LABOR

1. SUMMARY. IN THE COURSE OF MY INITIAL CALL ON THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR, TINA ANSELMi, SHE CONFIRMED THAT, DESPITE SOME PUBLIC CARPING, THE UNIONS ARE REASONABLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, THOUGH SHE WAS A BIT FEARFUL THAT THE EVIDENT CHANGE IN UIL LEADERSHIP MIGHT INDUCE INCREASED POLEMICS IN THE AREA OF WAGE DEMANDS. MINISTER ANSELMi WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT RADICAL CISL NATIONAL SECRETARY CARNITI WOULD FAIL IN HIS QUEST FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL. THE REJUVENATION OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WAS SHOWING GOOD PROGRESS, SHE FELT, CITING THE NUMBER OF NEW FACES IN BOTH THE CABINET AND PARLIAMENT. SHE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE RECENT "FESTE DELLE AMICIZIE" AND THE PARLIAMENTARY SEMINARS. SHE WAS ALSO GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY, UNDER ITS NEW SECRETARY CRAXI, WOULD ALTER ITS POLICIES IN A POSITIVE MANNER. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 16067 012004Z

2. I CALLED SEPTEMBER 30 ON THE NEW MINISTER OF LABOR, TINA

ANSELM. IN THE COURSE OF A VERY FRIENDLY DISCUSSION OF MORE THAN ONE HOUR, WE COVERED AN EXTENSIVE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS.

3. GOVERNMENT-LABOR RELATIONS. THE MINISTER AGREED THAT, DESPITE CRITICISM EXPRESSED BY THE CCU OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL REORGANIZATION PLAN FOLLOWING THE RECENT CCU MEETING WITH THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT (ROME 15616), THE UNIONS WERE MORE TOLERANT IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT THAN TOWARD ANY GOVERNMENT OF RECENT MEMORY. THE CRITICISMS VOICED WERE NECESSARY FOR THE LABOR LEADERS TO BE ABLE TO SEEM TO WIN CONCESSIONS IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS TRUE, THE MINISTER STATED, THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON INDUSTRIAL REORGANIZATION IS, IN FACT, SOMEWHAT VAGUE. THIS IS PARTLY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SURE WHAT IT WISHES TO ACHIEVE, PARTLY BECAUSE "SPACE MUST BE ALLOWED" FOR THE UNIONS TO HELP FORMULATE THE PLAN. FOR THE MOMENT, THE ONLY THREAT TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNIONS IS REPRESENTED POTENTIALLY BY THE APPARENT CHANGE IN UIL LEADERSHIP. SHE FELT THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOCIALISTS, IN CONTROL OF UIL, MIGHT PUSH FOR MAJOR WAGE INCREASES TO THE POINT OF FRUSTRATING THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY MEASURES.

4. FERMENT IN THE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. MINISTER ANSELM SPOKE WITH GENUINE REGRET OVER THE OUSTER OF UIL LEADER VANNI WHOM SHE DESCRIBED IN VERY COMPLIMENTARY TERMS. BENVENUTO, HIS APPARENT SUCCESSOR, WAS KNOWN AS SOMETHING OF A RADICAL, THOUGH HE IS VERY INTELLIGENT. SHE WAS MUCH MORE CONFIDENT TODAY THAN TWO WEEKS AGO THAT THE CANDIDACY OF PIERRE CARNITI AS NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF CISL COULD BE DEFEATED. SHE DESCRIBED HIS COMPETITOR, FRANCO MARINI, AS A VERY CAPABLE AND DEDICATED MODERATE WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE COMMUNIST MENACE. STORTI'S SUCCESSOR AS SECRETARY GENERAL, LUIGI MACARIO, WAS CLEARLY NOT UP TO ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB AND WOULD BE A TRANSITORY FIGURE, MINISTER ANSELM ASSERTED.

5. REJUVENATION OF THE DC. MINISTER ANSELM CONSIDERS THE NUMBER OF NEW FACES IN BOTH THE CABINET AND IN PARLIAMENT TO BE VERY HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT A REJUVENATION PROCESS IS WELL UNDERWAY IN THE DC. SHE WAS PARTICULARLY OUTSPOKEN IN SAYING THAT RECENT DC CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 16067 012004Z

INITIATIVES IN TAKING THE PARTY TO THE PEOPLE -- THE "FESTE DELLE AMICIZIE" HELD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND THE SERIES OF PARLIAMENTARY SEMINARS -- WERE VITAL STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THESE INITIATIVES FOUND PARTICULAR RESPONSE AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE TENDED TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNISTS IN LARGER PROPORTIONS THAN THE MORE MATURE CITIZENS. SHE WAS CONVINCED, SHE SAID, THAT IN THE JUNE 20 ELECTIONS MANY WORKERS SHIFTED THEIR VOTE FROM THE PCI TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, VIEWING THE

ELECTION AS AN OCCASION TO CHOOSE THE BASIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN ITALY. THE DC MUST CONTINUE TO WORK ON INFLUENCING THE YOUTH IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

6. THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND CRAXI. THE PSI, THE MINISTER SAID, IS A PARTY WITH MANY GENERALS AND A SHORTAGE OF TROOPS. THEY TEND TO BE VERY VAGUE IN IDENTIFYING THEIR OBJECTIVES. THE NEW PSI SECRETARY, CRAXI, IS UNQUESTIONABLY A GOOD MAN AND SHE ENTERTAINS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBTS ABOUT HIS AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS REPRESENTED BY COMMUNIST HEGEMONY. THE SAME, SHE SAID, CAN GENERALLY BE SAID FOR CRAXI'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORTER, MANCINI. THE PROBLEM IS THAT CRAXI DOES NOT COMMAND A CLEAR MAJORITY IN THE PARTY, AND HIS OPPONENTS ARE MARSHALING THEIR FORCES. THEREFORE, ONE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOOMUCH CHANGE TOO SOON FROM CRAXI, MINISTER ANSELMINI CONCLUDED.

7. COMMENT. MINISTER ANSELMINI GAVE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF HER STRONG VIEWS ON THE DANGERS REPRESENTED BY GROWING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE COUNTRY. SHE ALSO RECOUNTED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH THE GREAT IMPACT MADE UPON HER BY A SIX-WEEK STAY IN THE US IN 1964 UNDER A LEADER GRANT. SHE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE MANY EVIDENCES OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN THE SMALLER CITIES THAT SHE VISITED WHICH SHE CONTINUES TO CITE WITH GREAT EFFECT WHEN DISCUSSING DEMOCRACY AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. SHE IS CLEARLY VERY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT SHE IS A PERSON OF UNUSUAL COMPETENCE AS TESTIFIED BY THE IMPRESSIVE LIST OF SUCCESSES SHE HAS ACHIEVED IN RESOLVING MAJOR LABOR DISPUTES DURING THE SHORT PERIOD OF HER SERVICE AS MINISTER OF LABOR. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR OBJECTIVES, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME16067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760371-0017
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761092/aaaadcaj.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH THE MINISTER OF LABOR
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINR, IT, (ANSELM, TINA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006